

Dublin, 16th of October - 1851

My dear friend - How shall I thank you for your very kind & most welcome letter, & full of good things. If you write so when you feel very stupid, how must it be when you are conscious of being wide awake. I would not have the faintest idea from what you write to me that you were ever troubled in this way, and I apprehend in our same times but indifferent judges of our own power. And it is difficult to judge of a person's mood of mind from the thought ~~that~~ he puts on paper. I have some times been agreeably surprised by compliments for my poverty, when I had written under feelings of dryness, stupidity, & depression. All you tell me about your adventures - all that you say of your friends is most interesting to me. I feel a grudge against the unfortunate man at 17, Rue de Clugny, for the look of the place is rich & cheerful from what I was acquainted with at a time that I always remember with great satisfaction. I hear from Miss Estlin continually, & she often sends the letter the better pleased I am when the next letter comes. I have entered into the war, under her letter with all my heart; I write over solemnly for the women, and send my letter for his improvement before they are forwarded to the editor. I think it of great importance to keep the British Society up to the mark they have attained, and to form a nucleus there to counteract the schemes of New Broad Street. I wish they could get some very combative, deeply interested people there beside Mr Estlin & his daughter. They are so delicate, and every thing at present seems so to depend on their health & strength continuing them in working order. I was glad to hear that you had written to America for a full & clear statement of the case in 1840. I hope it may be such as will enable people here clearly to understand the merits of the case - and to see the actual dishonesty & absence of integrity that prevailed in the conduct of the New York Committee at that time. As to the last degree difficult to convince people, here that the whole difference is not merely a second between people about mere details, who have the same heart at heart, & are all pursuing that object to the best of their knowledge & and ability. This difficulty is increased by the prevalent ignorance & indifference of the English to the politics, circumstances, & private history of other people, so that when they are kindhearted & charitable, they are readily imposed on by the flimsiest pretences of dishonest people. A year or so before Thompson first visited Dublin, a man went round collecting subscriptions, professedly for Anti Slavery purposes, and calling himself George Thompson, and I believe this was his name. When the real George came, and application was made to them for cooperation, they refused, & the ~~other~~ those who had been duped before said that George Thompson was a swindler & they would have nothing to say to him.

I called on Professor Hancock, who was Professor took, and he has given me full permission to send it on to you. I have accordingly written to Miss Estlin to get it from Mr. Williams who borrowed it from me, and to send it to you. Your note accordingly makes myself quite easy about it when we get it, for I know that Hancock has made copious extracts from it into a lecture on the West Indies and on Free Labor's Progress, which he has offered to deliver before our Anti Slavery Society, and which is to come off on Thursday evening. I don't know whether I ever spoke of him to you. He is a very eminent young man, distinguished as a political economist, as the founder of the Dublin Statistical Society for the investigation & discussion of questions bearing on the social condition of Ireland, and he has just completed his term of four years as Professor of Political Economy in Dublin University, on Archbishop Whately's foundation. He is a big headed, sagacious fellow, and I believe him to be animated by a very noble spirit of enlightened patriotism & philanthropy. He is greatly bent on bringing before the public the causes of Ireland's unhappy position, the most prominent of which he considers the bad laws & customs of her enlightened times, which remain unrepented, and which make it impossible for the people to prosper. I became acquainted with him chiefly in the way of my business but for some time past he has rather evinced a friendly disposition towards me & a more intimate acquaintance - I think more I see him the higher is my opinion of the more sanguine our hopes from him. He is neither vain nor ambitious & seems to be influenced by high principle & good sense in his labors. I have often been surprised by the difficulty of inducing young men of talent & education to take any part in philanthropic efforts. He tells me that the dislike to being put behind placarded has much to do with it - and that cooperation could be much more readily obtained if there were less speech making and more real work. In Ireland little can be done with the ignorant, proud, sullen multitude - but much might be effected if we could get hold of the intelligent and educated. There is much ~~and~~ deep felt in these countries at the least of philanthropy and from the marked sectarian war in which the Anti Slavery cause has been conducted in New York it is difficult to get a petition bearing for more legitimate claims. I am exceedingly desirous that a higher class should be leavened with Anti Slavery principles than have hitherto paid our attention to the subject, and I am not without hope that something may be done. Hancock shows me his lecture and asked me to give my opinion. The free labor's progress movement he looks on as not only more gradual, but as positively injurious to the Anti Slavery cause. He lays its only effect upon the West Indies, provided it could be carried to such a point as to effect the consumption of their produce, would be to encourage ^{planting} their unwholesome tendencies which are injurious to their own pecuniary welfare and to the prospect of good government of the colored population of the island, who are ruled by them in an ungenerous & oppressive spirit. He approves of the principle of compensating the slaveholders in the event of a legislative emancipation - on the ground that as Slavery is maintained by the wish, power, & policy of a nation, they have

no right to abolish it at the expense of a section of the people who happened to sustain a relation which was recognized and protected by all. It might be said that whatever a man buys and sells he does is subject to the chances to which the laws of the country render it liable, and then to say she ~~could~~ ^{ought} to admit compensation to the slaveholder appears to her fatal to the whole abolition movement of the duty of immediately abandoning slavery on account of its sinfulness, & that you might as well talk of compensating any criminal for the loss he would suffer by abandoning the wages of sin. Slavery, however, is one of the crimes of law, and perhaps it may be left for the legislature to deal with it on these usual grounds of expediency. Yet I would like to know your opinion about it - I would like to know what you would think it right to say, suppose the questions of emancipation, subject to compensation, came up.

Our anti-slavery duty here is composed chiefly of such as, and of course their mode of doing, is rather of a hasty, hasty character. Still I think many of the Committee are sincerely desirous to do what they deem before them, and we have done this much good that many have been led going to work for the Boston Bazaar and we are in hope that by degrees some will be inoculated with a hearty zeal in the cause. For many years past I have been indifferent to the mere name of numbers - and have been about all things anxious to get real sincere cooperation.

You remarked that you did not hear our children say much. This is true. Not one of them is very demonstrative - they don't come out - they seem to be drawn out. When I was there we were ready to rush forward to all who welcomed me. And they are all well inclined, they are not stupid, and I have good reason to be satisfied. Our home since we had a home has always been opened to strangers - we have had a great variety of guests, and as we have attempted any style or state, the young people have had a great opportunity for studying their fellow creatures if they had been so disposed. They have been free to think, free to talk, & free to act to a very great extent. I cannot but think that this must operate favorably upon them in the future, and that they will be saved many of the painful battles for independence of thought that we have had to fight.

Still when I ~~then~~ remember by what slow steps my own mind grew - how many things that about my mind now were comparatively uninteresting - how years ago - that even our state of mind has some peculiar elements or tendency of its own. I think we should make great allowance for young people, and we may fairly hope they will, if not unduly warped, take the right side in the end. If any of our children adopted a course greatly opposed to my convictions I think I should feel my mind at ease in the consciousness that I had done what I could, and that I must be satisfied to let him choose what was most suited to himself.

I am sorry I thought as I did about having things nice for you - if I said so - I merely meant that as we are in Ireland where you have been, & where we are not up to England in domestic arrangements, I was anxious that you should be as comfortable as we could make you. We have always aimed ^{more} at maintaining a free & easy hospitality than any kind of pretension - so you will find us I hope. And you will admit as we looked for you so long it is natural we should like that when you do come we should like not be very much worn off than we have seen you elsewhere. But I don't intend to say any more of this.

I have had very good proof that Emma was still on English ground for I got a letter from her the same day your came to hand. It was so gay, friendly, and pleasant that she was the same as sitting next me all the time I read it, and this was a great gratification ~~because~~. She asked me to write which it was a letter in reply - I have done so, being glad to be asked - but I gather from a note of Mr Estlin about N. Chantler that Mary Estlin sent me, that she is at Brighton which his letter was from Earl Street.

I am glad you have seen so much of Lady Byron of whom I have heard so much that is good that I regard her with deep veneration. I wish some more of the peerage could be got to feel a substantial interest in anti-slavery matters. I have been heavy some more of the talk I told you of about S. Thompson's return - but being now on my guard, I have taken pains to enquire into the origin of them. I am greatly inclined to ascribe the charge that was so truly in his absence to damage him with his contributions to the underground hostility of people connected with New Broad Street - who did not like the decided stand he took in America.

If you met Mr Madame Mohl's - Bonette the Jesuit was lately with Cardinal Wiseman he could hardly have been in worse company. I abhor those Jesuits & Cardinals. They are always ready for mischief. The recent refusal to Kossuth of a passport through France is a deplorable indication of the shockingly low condition of the nation as represented by its Government. From the borders of Rome, the factor of Abd-el-Kader, and the lieutenant of one of the smallest of ~~petitions~~ petitions from one of the best illustrators of men. I rejoiced in the prospect of Kossuth's hearty reception in England. I have had my head so full of thoughts about him that for some nights I could not sleep as soundly as usual, he was so mingled with my dreams. I awoke and slept, and slept and awoke again, still it was all Kossuth!

Liberators have just come to hand, and one of them contains
a long reply to Grant in 3 columns there. It is very able and is
evidently written under a feeling of restraint - as if he tried to be
as courteous as he could under great provocation to launch his
thunders. I am afraid Grant's virtue and magnanimity may not
be strong enough to keep him from asserting his editorial omniscience
and trying to show that Garrison is ~~stale~~ all in the way in matters of
fact & doctrine, and that he himself is not at all convinced by any
thing he has said. It is one of the tricks of an ordinary editor's trade
never to be convinced - and I fear Grant will not prove an exception.
I need not make myself unhappy about it - but I do highly estimate
the importance of Grant's adhesion and of the value of the cause
having the hearty cooperation of a largely circulated London Daily Paper
that I dread anything that may risk the loss of it. The spirit in
which the Abolitionists work together - waving all sectarian differences for
their mastering estimate of the common cause, is rarely met
with in the efforts of men for the good of others though nothing is more
common in their daily schemes & operations for their own pecuniary
benefit.

I will enclose my letter box with more than
ordinary anxiety for some days to come to see what Grant is likely
to say to Garrison's remarks. There is a simplicity, directness, &
plaudibility in his style that may not be pleasing to the London
editors however in a matter that so nearly concerns his own credit
& dignity.

When in Bristol you may remember
he had some talk about old letters. Some accident directed Hannah's
attention to the state of her correspondence shortly after my return.
She resolved to undertake a revision, collation & redoubt of the
letters she had lying here & there lying, where in Leam. & Hemster.
I followed her example and such a chaos of thoughts & feelings at it
has called forth. Letters from my first correspondents after I left school -
young, middle aged & old - from my schoolfellows to old Lucy Leadbetter
the friend of Burke & Crabbe - cousins, & friends - under Father's - &
then American letters after I became involved in Anti-Slavery efforts.
The quantity is very great & the employment bewildering, & making a
strange chaos of my memory. Some of the raciest of my old letters are
those from my friend George Downes who is now dead some years. He was
300% humorist & an original with some of the playful odd fancies of Charles Lamb

richer for general reading, are those of my cousin Lizzy Kidder, formerly
Poole who has written some things in the Liberty Bell. She has a very
poetical & brilliant mind, though it seems very highly cultured, and
she has not enough appreciation of the importance of labour to take
pains enough with what she has written. She writes with a flowish
flavour, her productions unlicked. I was greatly amused with poetical
pieces she wrote and sent me ~~some~~ probably across thought of afterwards.
I often thought of her as I met with them. They are just such things
as one would enjoy while strolling at leisure on a summer walk, sparkling,
playful, & clever. She has a rich, handsome, beaming face, and bright eyes
full of confidence. She is happily married to a worthy young man who is as
prosaic as she is the contrary. She seems to be thrown away so great is the
intellectual disparity between them, but she would thank nobody who wd
say so. It is a rare & thankless thing to judge or choose for others in such
a matter.

I have been quite struck with the great number of letters
I have from persons from whom I have heard but very occasionally. Let
them come, apparently, even so slowly or occasionally, while they accumu-
late. It is odd too how completely this kind of intercourse drops off.
Some are dead. I could not expect them to continue. Some are married.
Some don't think it right to write to me. Some have nothing more to
say. Some have ceased to feel any sympathy ~~with~~ the subjects that
gave us subjects for writing - and so on.

What do you ask me did you ever lose any thing of mine, and underscore the
words? Did I ever say you did? Had you ever an opportunity? But I
may as well say that Bigelow is not mine - but you may keep it and
use it until you come back again from France. I can help hoping
there may be another Revolution ere long, though I have no wish that
you should be disturbed by its uproar.

I long to see Folsy Bar Relief, and must manage it some way. As
Mr Chapman remarked to me, he would be much more likely to
sell ~~them~~ and make it known if he had a more reasonable price
upon his work. It is probable he values the labours of modelling at a
high rate - otherwise £2 is a great deal for a plaster cast. I value
all such accessories to the Anti Slavery cause I think a bust or a
portrait is a good thing as an indication of sympathy or of opinion.
I delight in such things - and take great pleasure in my collection of
Daguerstypes - such are the checked forms in which likenesses of men
never can be obtained. It is a faulty, shape enough, but much better than nothing

I don't know whether it may not be very audacious to say so, but still I can say
that under you are much more exorable than I think you, I hope some-
times to have yours. It is the one I am next most bent upon possessing.
Speaking of books and such like, I peeped into the window of ~~a~~ a very
miserable little old china shop in a shabby street a week or two since
and there I saw a dirty bust of Franklin - about 9 inches high - standing
on a blue glass pedestal with the name in gold letters. I did not know
but it was glass but it proved to be porcelain. After
some chaffing I got it for 5/- Hannah has cleaned it up beautifully &
with the exception of a few slight fire flaws it is an admirable portrait
of the brave old printer. I think I have a special interest for such things.
They are an ever new delight. I would much like to know where
this one was made - whether by Wedgwood or in France. Do you ever
see any thing of the kind there. This one ~~was~~ ~~unusually~~ ~~interesting~~
it is full of expression.

Mr Webb had a great feast on your letters & letters, and the prospect
to dread lest I shall be too much excited by being so highly favoured.
But I do not feel any symptom of the wings growing out of my shoulders
or ~~my~~ ^{my} head or heels - and I confidently anticipate that I shall be
found still walking in the ordinary manner when we meet in Dublin.
I don't feel unreasonably elated, only very much delighted with you
kindness, and I am full sure how ~~ever~~ more it might be deepened by
others, it could not possibly be more esteemed than by me.

The letter London is from Prof. Harvey of Trinity College, an eminent
botanist who lectured in ~~London~~ Boston last year or the year before. He
is for whom I am printing a book to be published in America & to which
I am not to put my name lest the fact of its ~~to~~ being printed here
should cause an uproar there. He says you may take off the
envelope & redress it if by doing so any danger or difficulty
about the ~~post~~ post office will be over come. He is a nice fellow, and I
betwixt him very sharply lately about some proslavery talk he
picked up in his travels - and I fancy he is not the worst for the faith-
ful dealing I had with him. Now it is past midnight & I must con-
clude and come to an end. With kindest regards to you all, including
Madam Le Comte - to whom I feel always grateful, I am most truly yours

Rich D Webb

Mrs. Weston
17, Rue de Clichy